

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CU-02 IO-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

DEAE-00 SNM-02 OES-03 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /114 W

----- 050889

R 090843Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9433

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #13

1. U THANT AFFAIR: ACCOUNTS SETTLED - AFTER RELEASING LAST WEEK
113 MONKS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH U THANT AFFAIR, THE RANGOON
MILITARY COMMANDER HAS GRANTED PARDONS TO ANOTHER 270 PERSONS
ALREADY SENTENCED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISTURBANCES. THE
SUMMARY COURTS ALSO CONVICTED AN ADDITIONAL 52 PERSONS SEIZED ON
THE CAMPUS WHICH IT TERMED THE LEADERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMITTEES
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THAT FOMENTED THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND ANOTHER 19, STILL BEING

SOUGHT IN ABSENTIA. THESE WERE CHARGED WITH A VARIETY OF CRIMES RANGING FROM ASSAULT AND SEDITION TO "TRESPASSING OF BURIAL PLACES" AND APPARENTLY REPRESENT THE HARD CORE CASES WHICH THE GUB HAS NO INTENTION OF PARDONING. SENTENCES FOR THE NINE MONKS, TWO WOMEN AND 41 MEN RANGE FROM THREE TO TEN YEARS. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GUB HAS LARGELY SETTLED ACCOUNTS WITH THE CAMPUS DEMONSTRATORS AND THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DISTURBANCES IN DOWNTOWN RANGOON WITH MOST OF THE THOUSANDS INITIALLY DETAINED RELEASED FOLLOWING ONE TO THREE MONTHS DETENTION OR PARDONED AFTER CONVICTION.

2. TERRORIST ATTACK - A GRENADE EXPLODED ON A CROWDED DOWNTOWN STREET IN RANGOON EVENING OF APRIL 6TH. PRESS REPORTS 36 WOUNDED, ONE OF WHOM SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. POLICE HAVE AS YET NOT APPREHENDED ASSAILANTS BUT SUSPECT PPP TERRORISTS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PPP MAY BE SWITCHING FROM ITS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO TARGET FOREIGN MISSIONS IN RANGOON AND IS RESUMING ITS EARLIER PRACTICE OF RANDOM ASSAULTS ON PUBLIC PLACES. (RANGOON 910)

3. SOW'S EAR TO SILK PURSE - BURMA IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SMALL CHANGE, RESULTING PARTLY FROM HOARDING AND PARTLY FROM FACT THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF CHANGE ARE BEING MELTED DOWN TO OBTAIN ALUMINUM FOR FABRICATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE SPARE PARTS. (THE LATTER PROCESS THUS CONVERTS RELATIVELY WORTHLESS CURRENCY INTO VALUABLE CONSUMER GOODS.) LONG LINES ARE QUEING AT BANKS FOR CHANGE (LIMIT: TWO KYATS PER PERSON), WHILE THE OVERSTRAINED RANGOON BUS SYSTEM IS BEING FURTHER TROUBLED BY INABILITY OF CONDUCTORS TO MAKE CHANGE. CENTRAL BANK CHAIRMAN SYAS SHORTAGE LARGELY ARTIFICIAL, WITH SEVEN YEARS' NORMAL SUPPLY OF COINS ON HAND; HE EXPECTS SHORTAGE TO EASE BY NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING BULK DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF COINS THROUGH LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS.

4. BURMESE DELEGATION TO U.S. - GUB DELEGATION ARRIVES WASHINGTON APRIL 12 TO NEGOTIATE WORLD BANK LOANS FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS. DELEGATION IS HEADED BY DEPUTY PLANNING AND FINANCE MINISTER U CHIT MOUNG. MEMBERS HAVE SEVERAL OTHER INTERESTS, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH EXIMBANK ON FINANCING FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS STATION.

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5. NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION - A TWO MAN NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER KIM SOK ZIM ARRIVED IN RANGOON APRIL 8 FOR A WEEK'S VISIT. THEY WERE GREETED BY DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER U THEIN NYUNT, THE DPRK CONSUL GENERAL AND THE PRC AMBASSADOR. THE VISIT MAY BE IN RETURN FOR THE GUB INDUSTRIAL STUDY MISSION WHICH TOURED NORTH KOREA LAST SEPTEMBER.

6. NARCOTICS: A NEW CONCEALMENT TWIST - LOCAL PAPERS HELD AN

ACCOUNT OF A NARCOTICS SMUGGLER APPREHENDED IN LASHIO AFTER IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED THAT 18 LBS. OF RAW OPIUM HAD BEEN CONCEALED IN HOLLOWED OUT LEGS OF HAM AND 29 LBS. OF RAW OPIUM HAD BEEN CONCEALED IN BLOCKS OF WAX. THE CONFISCATED OPIUM IS VALUED AT LOCAL PRICES AT APPROXIMATELY \$1300; THE HAM CONSIDERABLY LESS.

7. NO WEEKA NEXT WEEK - GUB CLOSES DOWN FOR ANNUAL WATER-FESTIVAL HOLIDAY APRIL 14 THROUGH 17; AS A CONSEQUENCE NO WEEKA WILL BE PREPARED DURING WEEK OF APRIL 14. IN DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL WATER-FESTIVAL PRACTICE, CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN RANGOON THIS YEAR WILL APPARENTLY MISS OPPORTUNITY OF POURING BUCKETS OF WATER DOWN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S BACK; THE CHIEFS OF MISSION HAVE BEEN INVITED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY TO VISIT LOIKAW, OXUNGGYI, MANDALAY APRIL 9-14. MINISTER PRUDENTLY WILL NOT ACCOMPANY THEM. OSBORN

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